

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 34-37 were pending when the Application was examined. Claims 1, 10, 11, 22, 23 and 36 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 5, 6 and 8 are amended.

Claims 2-9, 12-21, 34, 35 and 37 are now pending, of which, claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18 and 37 are independent.

The currently pending claims have all been found allowed or are allowable subject to a 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claims 2-9 that is overcome by present amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-9, 12-21, 34, 35 and 37 are allowed. (Office action, p. 11.) However, claims 1-10 including allowable claims 2-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. (Office action, p. 5.)

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendments to the claims and further in view of the following arguments.

Claims 1 and 10 are canceled without prejudice.

Independent claims 5, 6 and 8 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification and drawings and, for example, in figure 5 of the drawings and in paragraphs [0073] to [0084] of the published Application (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0086592).

Applicants submit that, as amended, these claims are directed to statutory subject matter that is described in the specification of the current Application.

The remaining claims 2-4 and 9 depend from claim 5 and claim 7 depends from claim 6. The dependent claims include the limitations of their respective independent base claims and overcome the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 2-9 is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 11, 22, 23 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Marcu (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0046018) in view of Corston (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,399).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Marcu in view of Corston and further in view of Nakao (US 6,205,456).

While Applicants continue to traverse these rejections and Examiner's interpretation of teachings of the prior art used in this rejection, Applicants are canceling claims 1, 10, 11, 22, 23 and 36, without prejudice, in order to expedite prosecution.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/684,508

Attorney Docket No.: CQ10224

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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